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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,955	09/18/2003	Kayvan Hedayat	PCC120	7070

32047 7590 12/06/2004

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MANCHESTER, NH 03101

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TRUC T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/666,955	HEDAYAT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Truc T. T. Nguyen	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-35 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/12/04</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Newly submitted claims 7-35 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: the originally claimed invention was a connector sealed by a cover using grooves and wall mechanism while claims 7-35 are not.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 7-35 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (US 6,447,302) in view of Shaffer et al. (US 4,245,875).

Regarding claim 1, Davis discloses an electrical connector comprising:

a connector body (26);

an electrical contact (62);

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a cover (112);

a biasing member (124).

Davis does not disclose the cover and the body are sealed together by a wall and groove when the cover is closed.

Shaffer et al. teach a cover (44) and a connector body (12) are sealed together by a wall (18) and a groove (formed between two members 48, 50) (column 3, lines 24-32).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a wall and a groove into Davis's connector, as taught by Shaffer et al. to seal the connector from moisture.

Regarding claim 2, in the modified connector, Shaffer et al. disclose the groove disposed at partially around said contact comprises a first and a second upstanding wall disposed spaced from one another (see Figure 5).

Regarding claim 5, in the modified connector, Davis discloses the biasing member comprises a spring acting between said cover and said connector body.

Regarding claim 6, in the modified connector, Davis discloses an elastomeric block (128) sized to be received in an opening in said connector body.

4. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis (US 6,447,302) in view of Shaffer et al. (US 4,245,875) as applied in claim 1 above and further in view of Zornow (US 5,240,291).

In the modified connector, Davis in view of Shaffer et al. substantially disclosed the claimed invention except for a sealing member disposed in the groove between the cover and the connector body.

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Zornow teaches a sealing member (14).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a seal member into the groove of the modified connector, as taught by Zornow for sealing the connector.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 7/12/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Because:

Shaffer et al. disclose the wall (18) is enclosed by the lugs (48, 50) when the cover (44) is closed. Shaffer et al. do not specifically said that the connector is seal by the cover using wall (18) and groove (formed by the lugs 48, 50). One skill in the art would understand that the connector can be sealed when the cover is closed.

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitation. *Ex Parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987)*.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T. T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2011.

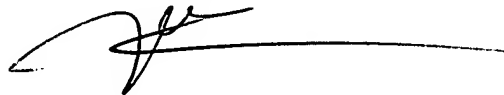
The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Truc T. T. Nguyen  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2833

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Truc', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.